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54. The variant of claim 50, wherein said variant further comprises amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to positions 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3.

55. An isolated alpha-amylase enzyme comprising an amino acid sequence having an amino acid sequence which has at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO:3, modified by having deletions at positions equivalent to positions 179 and 180 in SEQ ID NO:3.

56. The alpha-amylase enzyme of claim 55, wherein said alpha-amylase enzyme is further modified by having amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3.

57. The alpha-amylase of claim 55, wherein said alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

58. The alpha-amylase of claim 55, wherein said alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

59. The alpha-amylase of claim 55, wherein said alpha-amylase has an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO:3.

60. A process for producing an alpha-amylase enzyme, said process comprising:

- a) cultivating a host cell having a nucleic acid sequence encoding an alpha-amylase enzyme, said alpha-amylase enzyme comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 80% homology to SEQ ID NO:3 and wherein said alpha-amylase enzyme is modified by having deletions at positions equivalent to positions 179 and 180 in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said cultivating is performed under conditions conducive to produce the alpha-amylase enzyme, and
- b) recovering the alpha-amylase from the culture.

61. The process of claim 60, wherein said alpha-amylase enzyme is further modified by having amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to positions 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3.

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62. A DNA construct having a DNA sequence encoding an alpha-amylase enzyme comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 and further comprising deletions at positions equivalent to positions 179 and 180 in SEQ ID NO:3.

63. The DNA construct of claim 62, wherein said alpha-amylase enzyme further comprises amino acid substitutions of a cysteine at positions equivalent to positions 349 and 428 in SEQ ID NO:3.

64. A recombinant expression vector carrying the DNA construct of claim 62.

65. A cell transformed with the DNA construct of claim 63.

66. A cell transformed with the recombination expression vector of claim 64.

67. A process of producing an alpha-amylase, said process comprising culturing the cell of claim 66 under conditions conducive for the production of the alpha-amylase and recovering the alpha-amylase from the culture.

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